

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2018 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Ard, Kittel, Jackson, Volkert, Montello and Zajkowski.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Kittel moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Forward New Richmond

Beth Thompson explained the new Economic Development Organization proposal. The City advertised for volunteers to apply for this group; 16 people responded. Seth Hudson, from Cedar Corporation, interviewed these candidates and will assist with assembling this group. There will be a seven member executive committee. Possible goals for this group include:

- 1) Enhance economic development marketing efforts
- 2) Expansion/New Business & Technical Parks
- 3) Planning for STH 64 corridor
- 4) Promote and enhance downtown
- 5) Attract and develop a quality labor force
- 6) Encourage commercial and industrial developments
- 7) Encourage development of tourism

Next steps include interviews of interested candidates and City Council review of the Forward New Richmond concept. Then the Mayor and City Council representatives will interview the candidates. Next the Forward New Richmond concept will be presented in ordinance form to the City Council repealing the existing Economic Development Commission. Formal appointment will be on April 17, 2018, with the official kick-off of Forward New Richmond in May.

Seth Hudson gave a presentation about economic development and ways other communities have planned for development.

Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022

Rae Ann Ailts explained that staff members have prioritized the capital improvement projects. The next step is for the City Council to determine the critical projects and get that information back to Rae Ann. In April, staff will present sources and uses of funds for critical projects and define the "very important" category for the next group of projects. In May, staff will present sources and uses of funds for the "very important" projects and define the "important" category for the next group of projects. In June the public process for two-year "critical" and "very important" projects and determine budget limits for those projects. Considerable discussion followed.

Northside Trail

Jeremiah Wendt explained the redevelopment process for the north side. First, the City purchased the Dairy Queen building and the idea of a river walk surfaced. We proceeded with a conceptual design on the river walk. Jeremiah presented different possibilities for a river walk that would include a bridge to

Mary Park near the existing railroad bridge at High Street. The riverwalk is one of the projects that came from the CAP group. We want to preserve areas for a trail and get easements if necessary. Considerable discussion followed. There are three challenging areas: 1) two homes with garages close to the trail area; 2) how we cross the railroad tracks; 3) how we cross the river. Phase 1 would cost approximately \$57,914; Phase 2 would cost \$51,740 to \$220,267; Phase 3 would cost \$56,394 to \$266,201; and Phase 4 would cost \$1,486,650 to \$1,861,610. No decision is needed at this time.

Comprehensive Salary and Benefits Study RFP

Staff suggested preparing a draft RFP for a comprehensive salary and benefits study for all positions. This would allow for an independent, comprehensive analysis and comparison with other employers. This draft RFP would be considered at the April 9, 2018, meeting with a potential selection occurring in May.

Communications & Miscellaneous

Jeremiah Wendt stated the “Welcome to New Richmond” signs have been taken down and will be relocated closer to the edge of town. Staff will be working on cleaning up the area where the signs were located.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk